

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6815
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PERP, TU, EC, NATO
SUBJ: ECEVIT ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION
IN BRUSSELS

THERE FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF TURKISH PM ECEVIT'S ADDRESS
TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION IN BRUSSELS MAY 25
IN WHICH HE DESCRIBES IN GENERAL TERMS REASONS FOR
TURKEY'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE US, NATO AND THE EC.

SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWING
ADDRESS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY:

BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE AND HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS
SELECT INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF JOURNALISTS IN BRUSSELS.
I THANK YOU, MR. SCHAVOIR, AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS
ASSOCIATION, FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY.
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IN RECENT YEARS, TURKEY HAS BEEN PASSING THROUGH A PERIOD
OF SERIOUS CRISES IN SEVERAL AREAS, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL, AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS. AT LEAST, IN SOME RESPECTS, THESE CRISES
REFLECT THE STRAINS OF A TRANSITIONAL STAGE IN A DYNAMIC
SOCIETY.

TURKEY IS THE ONLY DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHERE DEMOCRACY HAS SURVIVED ALMOST UNINTERRUPTEDLY SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR. AT THE ROOT OF THESE CRISES IS THE FACT THAT THE LEVEL OF SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, IN THE TURKISH SOCIETY, IS FAR AHEAD OF ITS LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS HAS NATURALLY RESULTED IN GREAT TENSIONS.

SOME (TURKISH) GOVERNMENTS RESPONDED TO THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THESE TENSIONS IN A WAY THAT ONLY AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION. RATHER THAN ADOPTING POLICIES THAT WOULD ENSURE A MORE RAPID AND A HEALTHIER PROCESS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCREASING SOCIAL JUSTICE WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE STAGES OF SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; THEY TRY TO CHECK INSTEAD SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT; FIRST THROUGH LEGAL MEASURES AND WHEN THESE FAILED THROUGH MORE DIRECT FORMS OF PRESSURE WHICH RESULTED IN ACCUMULATING REACTIONS AND IN AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE.

IN THESE YEARS OF TURMOIL AND IN THE HANDS OF UNWORKABLE COALITION GOVERNMENTS, ECONOMY DETERIORATED.

THIS PERIOD OF TURMOIL AND ECONOMIC DETERIORATION COINCIDED WITH A PERIOD OF WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS BY WHICH COUNTRIES YET AT THE STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND WITH NO RICH OIL RESOURCES WERE HIT PARTICULARLY HARD. IT ALSO COINCIDED WITH THE ARMAMENTS EMBARGO THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS BEEN APPLYING TO TURKEY FOR OVER THREE YEARS. BOTH THESE FACTORS AGGRAVATED TURKEY'S ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS EVEN MORE, SO MUCH SO THAT BY THE END OF LAST YEAR, THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS NEARLY 50 PERCENT, THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT NEARLY 20 PERCENT, AND PRODUCTION AS WELL AS EXPORT EARNINGS, HAS FALLEN DOWN CONSIDERABLY.

IN FEW COUNTRIES COULD DEMOCRACY SURVIVE UNDER SUCH SEVERE STRAINS AND SUCH ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

THE FACT THAT IT DID SURVIVE IN TURKEY AND THAT A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT TOOK PLACE AT THE PEAK OF THIS PERIOD OF CRISES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PROOF OF A BASICALLY HEALTHY SOCIETY AND OF THE STRENGTH OF TURKISH DEMOCRACY. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN PASSING THROUGH A PERIOD OF CRISIS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WEST.

THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO, SERIOUSLY IMPAIRING THE DEFENSE CAPACITY OF A COUNTRY LIKE TURKEY SITUATED IN THE MOST CRITICAL PART OF THE WORLD, AND THE OTHER ALLIES' INDIFFERENCE TO THIS UNSEEMLY ACTION AGAINST A MEMBER COUNTRY WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO COLLECTIVE DEFENCE FOR YEARS BEYOND THE MEANS OF HER ECONOMY AND BEYOND HER OWN NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, CAUSED A DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE WEST. THE DETERIORATION IN TURKEY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, OF WHICH SHE IS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, ADDED TO THIS DISILLUSIONMENT.

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THE TURKISHPEOPLE, HOWEVER, REFRAINED FROM EMOTIONALIZING THIS DISILLUSIONMENT AND TURKEY'S AFFINITY WITH THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WEST HAS THUS FAR SURVIVED THIS SERIOUS CRISIS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, MAINLY BECAUSE, THIS AFFINITY IS DUE, NOT TO INSTITUTIONAL TIES LIKE MEMBERSHIP IN NATO OR ASSOCIATION WITH THE EEC, BUT TO SHARED DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND VALUES.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES ARE OPEN SOCIETIES, AND OPEN SOCIETIES ARE MORE OPEN TO OTHER OPEN SOCIETIES.

A NON-DEMOCRATIC TURKISH SOCIETY WOULD HAVE INEVITABLY DRIFTED AWAY FROM THE WEST AS A RESULT OF THE DISILLUSIONMENT OF RECENT YEARS.

DEMOCRACY, IN A SENSE, IS A "CULTURE". THEREFORE,

TURKEY IS IN A POSITION OF CULTURAL PROXIMITY TO THE
DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WEST.

BUT THE CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY IN A
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HEALTHIER AND PEACEFUL WAY IS DEPENDENT ON MORE RAPID
AND ON HEALTHIER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THEREFORE, BY HELPING TURKEY THROUGH THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS,
OUR PARTNERS OR ALLIES IN THE WEST, WOULD NOT ONLY BE
CONTRIBUTING TO THE FURTHER DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF
TURKEY, BUT ALSO WOULD ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF OUR
TIES WITH THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WEST.
THE CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE TIES WOULD NOT,
OF COURSE, EXCLUDE TURKEY'S WIDENING RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WITH
COUNTRIES IN THE SAME REGION, WITH MANY OF WHICH THE
TURKISH PEOPLE HAVE CLOSE AND DEEP HISTORIC BONDS.
THROUGH FURTHER EXTENDING SUCH RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,
TURKEY CAN MAKE AND SHOULD MAKE HER OWN CONTRIBUTION TO
DETENTE, TO PEACE AND TO THE EVENTUAL BUILDING UP OF A
FAIRER WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY AS WELL AS THE CONDITIONS AND
POSSIBILITIES CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE REGION WHERE SHE
IS SITUATED COULD AND SHOULD ENABLE TURKEY TO PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN STRENGTHENING AND WIDENING DETENTE,
AND IN BRINGING CLOSER TOGETHER THE EAST AND THE WEST,
AS WELL AS THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH IN BOTH THE CONTEMPO-
RARY AND LITERARY SENSES OF THE TERMS.

ONE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT WAY IN WHICH TURKEY CAN PLAY
SUCH A ROLE IS THROUGH PROVIDING TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE
MISSING LINK BETWEEN THE UNDER-UTILIZED CAPITAL
GENERATED IN THE REGION AND THE UNDER-UTILIZED TECHNOLOGY
OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL.
THESE TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS OF OUR AGE HAVE OT BEEN ABLE
TO COME TOGETHER IN A PRODUCTIVE WAY YET. SUCH A
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TRILATERAL COOPERATION COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR CHANGES
AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD HELP THE COUNTRIES OF THE
REGION, AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED WITH THE
REGION, TO TRANSCEND THE SEEMINGLY INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS,
TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS THAT CULMINATE IN THIS PART OF THE

WORLD.

IN THE MEANTIME THE TURKISH PEOPLE, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR HAS ENCROACHED UPON A PROGRAM OF RESTORING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY ON SOUNDER BASIS, IN ESTABLISHING A HEALTHIER ECONOMIC ORDER AND STRUCTURE IN THE COUNTRY AND IN RENDERING TURKEY MORE SELF-RELIANT IN MANY AREAS, INCLUDING DEFENCE.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXERTING EVERY EFFORT IN THE WAY OF REVITALIZING OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN A WIDE SPECTRUM AND HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS THAT REMAIN SUSPENDED FOR YEARS, SUCH AS THE CYPRUS ISSUE, THE ISSUES THAT CAUSE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORING AND ALLIED COUNTRIES, TURKEY AND GREECE; AND DURING MY VISIT TO BRUSSELS, I HAVE HAD THE OCCASION TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO HELP EASE OUR DIFFICULTIES

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WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND WITH NATO.

I HOPE THAT THESE EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES OF OURS WILL BE MET WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE RESPONSE, I HAVE FOUND ENCOURAGING INDICATIONS DURING MY CONTACTS HERE, AND IN THE COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE VISITED IN RECENT WEEKS, AND THIS MAY BE SO.

I HAVE CONFINED MYSELF, IN THIS OPENING ADDRESS TO ANALYZING TURKEY'S BASIC PROBLEMS IN GENERAL LINES AND TO REFERRING TO SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO SUCH PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS THAT HOPEFULLY MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO MANY OTHER PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES.

I SHALL BE READY TO GO INTO DETAILS AND TO ELABORATE IN ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS. END TEXT. HINTON

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